

Injury Fact Sheet—Agriculture



Orchard Workers—Caught in/under/between Injuries

116 orchard workers were seriously injured from being caught in, under or between machinery and equipment in the years 2000-2004



These injuries were so serious that the workers had to take time off work to recover or in some cases, were permanently disabled. Serious injuries are costly and affect your industrial insurance premiums. They contribute to the reason for the base rate of \$0.55 per hour per employee paid by employers in 2006. If your company has a higher than average number of injuries (claims), your “experience rating” could increase by as much as 25% in one year to \$0.67 per hour per employee.

At first, it may not seem like much but consider this: if you had 5 full-time workers and had an average number of injuries (claims), you would pay about \$5,500 in premiums in 2006. If your experience rating increased by 25% because you had higher than average injuries, you would pay about \$6,700 in premiums, or \$1,200 more in 2006.

Causes of caught in, under or between injuries

Caught in/under/between injuries come from workers not being familiar with their equipment and aware of pinch points, shear point, wrap points, pull-in areas and crush points.



According to the Washington state injury claim reports, workers are most commonly caught in, under or between agricultural machinery and vehicles.

Ways to prevent caught in, under or between injuries

- Before beginning work, inspect all your machinery safety guards, including chain guards and Power-Take-Off (PTO) guards. If any guards are missing or broken replace or repair them.
- Whenever possible, equip tractors with a Roll Over Protective Structure (ROPS) and wear seat belts.
- Do not move a tractor if a worker is between it and its wagon.
- Shut down equipment, turn off engine, remove key and wait for moving parts to stop before dismounting equipment.
- Place wagons and trailers on level ground and chocked before unhitching.
- Warn or train all employees working around equipment and vehicles about hazardous moving parts.